

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA AND DON KNABE     October 12, 2004

Latino AIDS Awareness Day for Los Angeles County will coincide with National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15 and will provide an opportunity to increase community awareness and dialogue, to commemorate those lost, and bring leaders together to advocate for greater services and community involvement to fight this epidemic. The theme for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2004 is, *Abre Los Ojos: El VIH No Tiene Fronteras (Open Your Eyes: HIV Has No Borders)*.

The HIV epidemic is spreading into more segments of the Latino community, and the health of those with AIDS is worsening. According to the Center for Disease Control, the rate of new HIV infections among Latinos rose by 26% last year. Because of stigma and fear associated with being HIV infected, the average time from testing HIV positive to being diagnosed with an AIDS defining condition for most Latinos is less than six months. The nearly nine-year decline in deaths among Latinos due to HIV/AIDS is now reversing for a range of reasons, including the rising cost of medications, scarcity of medical treatment, increased resistance to existing medication, and lack of adherence to treatment due to serious side effects and strict regimens. Anti-immigration policies also limit access to care for thousands of Latinos.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

In Los Angeles County, Latinos represent 40% of those people living with AIDS compared with 20% of those diagnosed nationally. Latinas account for 42% of women living with AIDS, and an estimated 75% of new HIV infections in the Latino Community occur among young and adult Latino gay and bisexual men who are in need of specifically developed HIV prevention messages, strategies and interventions.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors proclaim October 15, 2004 Latino AIDS Awareness Day in Los Angeles County and encourage all Los Angeles County residents to learn about the risks and harms associated with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.